



Tuesday 7th December 2021

Re: Covid-19 'Warn and Inform' Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my letter from last week, it was only last night that I received the updated 'Warn and Inform' letter from Public Health England. I include the detail for you further on.

It is important that you are aware that we have seen a further increase in cases over the past week, including several members of staff that have tested positive. While we are still at a green level of alert, it is probable that we will be moving to amber before the end of term if this trend continues. We continue our dialogue with PHE, and our daily returns to the DfE. We will of course keep you updated with the implications of any changes/adjustments that need to be made in-line with guidance we receive.

In the meantime, we continue with all of our Covid measures:

- We continue to ensure regular handwashing/sanitising for children and staff at frequent intervals throughout the day
- Enhanced cleaning continues, with extra 'pinch-point' cleaning as relevant
- We continue to ensure good ventilation by opening windows and propping back doors as much as is practically possible
- We are now ensuring that staff are wearing masks/shields when moving around the school site as well as in communal areas
- We encourage staff to take twice weekly LFD tests (although many are doing this more frequently now) and support staff to take-up the vaccination
- We have unfortunately had to stop events where we invite our parents and carers – **this will also now include the music concert next week**. Like our St. Barnabas Christmas Celebration today, we are hoping to record performances that we can share.

Given our current situation, I would like to encourage all families (including children) to test regularly with lateral flow tests, which are readily available. By making this part of our family routines, repeating the tests every few days, this will ensure that we are all doing our bit to keep ourselves and our community safe. I'm sure that you will agree with me in wanting a Christmas where we are all well, and can spend time with our loved ones without worry.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Purcell Headteacher

Dulwich Hamlet Junior School



Dulwich Village, London SE21 7AL

Telephone: 020 7525 9188/9 Answerphone: 020 8693 3705

Website: <http://www.dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk>

Email: office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk Twitter: @DulwichHamlet

Head Teacher: Mrs Claire Purcell

Public Health England Information:

We have been notified that there has been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school setting.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are providing the following advice. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The school setting remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We encourage household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should [get a PCR test](#) and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If the child has a positive test result but does not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119.

What is the latest advice for the contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

If someone is identified as a contact of a person who has had a positive test result for COVID-19, then they must stay at home and self-isolate unless they meet one of the following conditions:

- Are fully vaccinated¹
- Are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- Have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial

¹ Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

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- Are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

However, if they live with or are contact of someone who has been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, then the above conditions do not apply, and they must stay at home and self-isolate (even if they are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months). For more information on this, please see the latest guidance (links below)

[Guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

[Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(http://www.gov.uk\)\)](#)

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

NHS Test and Trace will get in touch with anyone who is a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to check whether they are legally required to self-isolate. If they are not legally required to self-isolate, then they will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if they do not have symptoms, [they will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](#).

You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

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- get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#)
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here:
<https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>